

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 NIC-01 /067 W

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P R 180912Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 1566

COMUSFJ YOKOTA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

USAGO FORT BUCKNER

313TH AD KADENA

CONFLEACTS NAHA

UNCLAS NAHA 509

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, JA

SUBJ: OKINAWAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

1. DESPITE LIFTIST TENOR OF BOTH OKINAWAN NEWSPAPERS, THEY ARE PLAYING UP PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT AND NOT GIVING IT AS NEGATIVE COVERAGE AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. IN FACT, RYUKYU SHIMPO QUOTED ONE YOUNG MAINLAND UNION MEMBER PREPARING TO GO OUT TO

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DEMONSTRATE AGAINST VISIT AS SAYING THAT "IT WAS GOOD THAT THE TWO LEADERS COULD GET TOGETHER AND TALK."

2. EXCEPTION WAS NOVEMBER 18 OKINAWA TIMES EDITORIAL WHICH STATED THERE HAD BEEN "NO BRIGHT ASPECTS" FOR OKINAWA IN 30 YEARS OF POST-WAR US-JAPAN RELATIONS. THE SEPARATION OF OKINAWA FROM JAPAN'S ADMINISTRATION HAD RESULTED IN "OPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, RESTRICTIONS ON AUTONOMY AND POLITICAL FREEDOM, AND DENIAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. ANY BRIGHT ASPECTS IN 30 YEARS OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS, WERE, WITHOUT EXAGGERATION, BUILT AT THE SACRIFICE AND AGONY OF OKINAWA." ARTICLE WENT ON TO ALLEGE THAT CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. BASES IN THEIR PRESENT FORM IN OKINAWA HAD PROLONGED THE

POST-WAR SET UP, DESPITE REVERSION, AND JUSTIFIED OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

3. COMMUNIST-LED ANTI-H BOMB GROUP (GENSUIKYO) PLUS OTHER COMMUNIST ADHERENTS PRESENTED PETITION TO CONGEN NOVEMBER 18 OPPOSING FORD VISIT. PROTEST WAS HARSH STEREOTYPED ATTACK ON US AND PLAYED UP NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE. WE STRESSED IRONY OF FACT THAT JCP OPPOSED VISIT WHEN IT APPEARED THAT MOST JAPANESE PEOPLE SEEMED GENUINELY TO WELCOME IT, AND THAT EVEN LEFTIST PRESS ADMITTED MOOD OF OPPOSITION HAD NOT BUILT UP. INCREASINGLY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED

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REVERSION COUNCIL (FUKKIKYO) PLANS TO CALL ON US TOMORROW.

4. MONDAY AFTERNOON RYUKYU SHIMPO GAVE TOP COVERAGE TO BOTH THE SECURITY PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL AND TO THE SECRETARY'S PRESS INTERVIEW ON THE PLANE, HEADLINING THE STORY WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT THE TRIP WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE. IT WAS AN UNUSUALLY POSITIVE PRESENTATION FROM THIS LEFTIST PAPER.

SYLVESTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NAHA00509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0523
From: NAHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741135/aaaabcfwf.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OKINAWAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S VISIT.
TAGS: PINS, JA, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005